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Experience With Alsike.

Wherever it can be grown, we recommend the trial of alfalfa. But on flatwoods land or any soil where the water level is near the surface, alfalfa will not thrive. On such lands we suggest that you try alsike or Swedish clover. The following from the Ohio Farmer gives the results of the experiments of four farmers.

NO. 1.

I have had alsike and timothy mixed for pasture the last four years and have found it a very valuable pasture. It is very hardy, will stand close grazing, and is next to impossible to freeze out, standing the winter much better than either the mammoth or little red. Then again, if you want it for mowing there is no finer feed than alsike clover, especially if you have timothy and clover mixed, as a great many farmers now do. I sowed about 14 acres of rye field this spring in April) to alsike and timothy to have a permanent pasture. I have a fine set of both and may mow for hay another year. I stacked the rye in about one week after cutting so as to not kill out where the shocks stood and have pastured three head of horses, five head of cattle and thirty-eight head of hogs, ever since, besides have five head of lambs running on the same for a few weeks past. As a pasture or to mow for hay I think it is unequalled by any of the other clovers. As to being a benefit to land, it certainly is, but I would prefer either the little red or the mammoth if I were sowing principally for a fertilizer, the little red for a root crop and the mammoth for a mulch. I have about 18 acres of the mammoth I cut for seed this season and naturally expect a big crop of corn from that field another year as the ground is covered with the clover straw left after cutting the seed.

Now as to poisoning horses, I never had any trouble until this summer (since harvest). I bought a black horse with a white nose and white hind feet this spring, and it is proven conclusively to me that the saying is true, for this particular horse got both hind feet and his nose poisoned and pretty badly at that. I am of the opinion that had I kept him off when there was heavy dew or rainy weather it would not have poisoned him, as for a time when first turning him out I would not allow them on pasture nights or rainy days and had no trouble until I got to leaving him out altogether. But other horses without white noses or feet were not affected. All in all I think it worth my while guarding against those things in order that we may grow some alsike clover. As to its being poison internally I have never had any trouble and have pastured all kinds of stock from horses to sheep.—R. H. Doyle, Union Co., O.

NO. 2.

While this is my first year for sowing, my neighbors have been raising it for a number of years and I am so well convinced that I now have 40 acres seeded with it and the growth is wonderful. While horses with white noses are more easily poisoned than others, I have pastured it with both horses and cattle and no bad results followed, and mixed with timothy no better hay can be found. If desired for hay I would advise sowing timothy with it. Many sow it for seed alone. I have known it to yield eight bushels per acre while a yield of four to six bushels is not uncommon. If desired for seed it should be sown on land that is not over-rich. It yields the best seed on what we commonly call upland. One of my neighbors never reseeds, but lets it reseed itself, but I believe it to be the best to sow lightly when necessary to reseed. I never heard of any land being injured by its use. Try some of it for hay and also for seed.—E. T. Lowe, Logan Co., O.

NO. 3.

In answer to D. Simpson, Wood Co., O., in regard to alsike clover, will say: After a seed crop of alfalfa has been taken off, in a dry year, to all appearances, it looks dead; but the following spring it will come up much thicker than first seeded, if the ground is not cultivated. Last fall my field I cut for seed was absolutely bare, not a particle of clover, grass, or even weeds to be seen. I sowed some timothy seed and harrowed the ground thoroughly, and last spring timothy and clover came up and we cut a fair crop of mixed hay from it.

In regard to alsike being a benefit to the ground; the most experienced farmer that I know of in its use says that its sod is better for corn than either of the other clovers. As to its poisoning the feet or noses of horses, the farmer spoken of above said he had pastured fifteen acres continuously for fifteen years and no animal had had a sore nose, or sore feet. Many farmers in this county are leaving the medium and going to alsike, the price for seed being much more than for medium. Once in fifteen years, two crops of seed have been cut the same year. One year seed was cut from alsike that ripened in the wheat stubble from which a crop of wheat had recently been cut.

The writer this year cut 66 bushels from 17½ acres, this being much the best yield heard of in the county. There is no better hay for sheep than alsike, unless it is alfalfa. The dust is not found on it like that on medium clover.—J. S. Baker, Hardin Co., O.

NO. 4.

When very dry and hot weather comes after the first cutting alsike will die; otherwise not, and it is a great soil improver. As to poisoning horses with white feet and noses, I

think it is another weed that does that. I know we had a weed that did that, fifty years ago, before anything was known of alsike. I was the first man in our locality to sow alsike, and my neighbors all saw that it was a good thing, and now nearly all sow it with good results. Our way is to sow three quarts of timothy to the acre in the fall with wheat or rye, and in the latter part of March or first days in April when the soil is honeycombed, then I sow my clover seed. I sow four bushels medium red clover seed and one bushel alsike, well mixed, on thirty acres with very good results. It then gives mixed hay of the very best quality. Last June we mowed a field of eighteen acres and got forty-eight four-horse loads of the very best hay. It gives better yields and better quality when mixed, and I have this experience, that when red clover fails alsike will be a success. I have sown it for the last ten years and will never do without it.—E. K. Bohn, Berks Co., Pa.

Green Velvet Beans Poisonous.

To The Florida Experiment Station, Gentlemen,

A few days ago my family suffered from the effects of something like poisoning from eating green velvet beans. Will you kindly let me know if there has been any poison discovered in this variety of bean?

The circumstances leading up to the above inquiry are as follows.

At the grove here we are growing about 40 acres of velvet beans for market, the beans now being well developed in the pod but perfectly tender and white. I suggested to my wife that we have a few as an experiment, cooked for dinner in the manner ordinary Butter beans are cooked, viz. boiled in salt water until tender and served with a dressing of butter, black pepper and milk. This was done and at dinner the entire family, which consists of my wife, myself, two small children, aged 3 and 4, and a nursing infant, partook of the beans freely, and I freely confess that in taste, odor and appearance no variety of garden bean in our opinion is better. The remaining articles of food making up the dinner were lightbread, cornbread, coffee, boiled ham, stewed corn, canned tomatoes, pumpkin pie and grapefruit served with sugar and coconut. Also butter and sweet and butter milk. All of which the family ate more or less.

Dinner was served as is usual on the farm at twelve and no ill effects appeared until after the two small children had eaten their supper at five o'clock, which consisted of bread and milk, and were put to bed. In a few minutes both children complained of being cold and commenced to shiver with copious vomiting at short intervals until the stomach was entirely empty. Fever began to rise at about ten o'clock and continued until late in the night, when it disappeared

leaving both children pale and extremely weak. At about nine o'clock I was attacked in a similar manner but with more intense effects. The chilly sensation lasting for more than two hours in my lower limbs after which fever rose. The nausea was intense but owing to digestion having completely emptied the stomach nothing was expelled. My wife was attacked in precisely the same way about twelve o'clock, with the result that the rigor lasted but about fifteen minutes but was so violent that it was impossible for her to control her limbs even when in bed under several thicknesses of blanket.

As you will see from the above description of each case all were effected in about the same way. The two children were able to expell the beans from their stomachs and recovered much quicker. My wife entirely recovered in 36 hours, but with me it was different, having eaten the beans on Friday at noon the 13th, and at this writing Sunday night I am still suffering of the weakness, having just left my bed this morning.

Being situated eight miles from medical aid we had no doctor, as no very dangerous affects appeared, or rather were over before we could send out. It appears to me that a chemical analysis should be made of green velvet beans, both raw and boiled, as should any poisonous property be present in them people should be warned. Thanking you in advance for the requested favor and asking pardon for the length of this letter I am,—

Successful Cannery.

In a talk to a Times-Union reporter, W. W. Blackner, manager of the Delray packing and preserving plant, has this to say about the success of their canning business:

"Our principal canned goods are pineapples, tomatoes, beans, etc. The people all over Florida and many cities in eastern and northern states are taking a great interest in this plant, which, of course, is encouraging to us. We make a specialty of canning ripe fruits, especially pineapples, which we can secure direct from the fields."

While North Mr. Blackner closed a deal with a firm at Erie, Pa., for \$10,000 worth of his canned goods.

At intervals for years past, Orlando has talked of establishing a canning factory. During the palmy days of the pineapple industry in this city it was a favorite topic of conversation and samples were even put up and speculated upon. The success of this Delray factory proves that our folks were on the right track if they had carried it out. The turtle canning plant of this place, though on a small scale, seems to be a success. Some enterprising individuals will happen along sometime and will put all our farmers to work along this line.